

Reflection for Sunday, June 13

Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

from Jon Metz

In ministry we often talk about planting seeds. It is a beautiful but challenging analogy. The thought is that we are always planting seeds of faith. We plant seeds with kindness, patience and hope. We plant these seeds with young people, students and adults. The seed can be knowledge, wisdom or faith. The challenging part about planting seeds is that you aren't always around to see the seed grow and mature. We trust that this happens, but we don't always have the proof. Every catechist and teacher is familiar with this process. See the seeds get scattered all over the world. I am a product of someone planting seeds of faith; if you are reading this, chances are you are too.

Both in our first reading from Ezekiel and in the Gospel from Mark we see these images of planting. In the Gospel we hear the familiar parable of the mustard seed. We know the mustard seed is the smallest of seeds but grows into one of the largest of plants. Jesus tells us this is what the Kingdom of God is like. We are entrusted with the mustard seeds today. We have faith that it will turn into the large plant that is big enough for birds to nest in. This, obviously, takes faith. We cannot see the whole picture today, but we trust that with good planting, love and compassion it will grow into fruition.

- Who planted the seeds of faith in you?
- Have you planted seeds of faith?
- Have you been witness to the fruition of the seeds of faith?